

NATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDANCES (NPGs)

ISSUE SUMMARY:

EPA uses [National Program Guidances \(NPGs\)](#) to operationalize the Agency's annual performance plan and budget decisions by outlining program-specific priorities, strategies, and performance metrics for the regions, states, and tribes. NPGs can be issued only after release of EPA's budget and provide critical information to guide negotiation of grant work plans with states and tribes. A delay in the release of the FY 2022 President's Budget (which normally occurs in February) will delay issuance of the FY 2022-2023 NPGs.

UPCOMING MILESTONES:

- (b) (5)

BACKGROUND:

The NPGs are a long-standing practice and operational component of EPA's planning, budgeting, and accountability processes, although not required by statute. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer manages and oversees the agency-wide NPG process. The primary audiences for the NPGs are EPA headquarters and regional offices and EPA's state and tribal partners. The NPGs' program-specific priorities and performance metrics inform EPA-state and EPA-tribal grant work planning.

The EPA implements a two-year cycle for the NPGs, which includes exceptions-based addendums (in the second year). The two-year process is intended to strengthen state and tribal engagement and increase flexibility for the EPA regions, states and tribes, while streamlining the workload associated with joint planning activities. The Addendums capture significant changes to program priorities and strategies that must be addressed in the second year of the two-year cycle.

Seven programs issue NPGs: Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Water, the Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) and the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR). OITA's NPG serves as a primary resource for tribes, including references to tribal sections in the programmatic NPGs. OCIR's NPG focuses on the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS).

Individual NPGs for the five major environmental programs are tailored to each program and follow a consistent format that includes key strategies, programmatic activities, and performance metrics to carry out long-term performance goals and other core work that supports EPA's strategic goals and objectives.

Each NPG:

- Operationalizes priorities and strategies in the EPA's Annual Performance Plan and Budget, consistent with EPA's Strategic Plan;
- Reflects NPMs' and regions' collaborative engagement with states and tribes to identify the most important areas of focus for carrying out work to protect human health and the environment.
- Translates annual planning/budget choices into programmatic operational priorities to inform state and tribal grant agreements, which support implementation of federal environmental laws.
- Includes Regional/NPM performance metrics to assess progress in implementing programs and policy.

KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

- ☐ Congress ☐ Industry ☒ States ☒ Tribes ☐ Media ☐ Other Federal Agency
☐ NGO ☐ Local Government ☐ Other (name of stakeholder) _____

The program-specific priorities and performance metrics contained in the NPGs inform EPA-state and EPA-tribal grant work planning.

MOVING FORWARD:

- Administration issues priorities for EPA's FY 2022 President's Budget and Performance Plan, which guide development of FY 2022-2023 NPGs.
- OCFO communicates to the NPMs any significant changes for FY 2022 and updated milestones for issuance of draft and final FY 2022-2023 NPGs.

LEAD OFFICE/REGION: OCFO

OTHER KEY OFFICES/REGIONS: OAR, OCSP, OECA, OLEM, OW,
OITA, OCIR, ALL 10 REGIONS